

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5-7, 9-20 and 27 are currently pending in the application. Claims 5, 9, and 16 are independent claims. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8 and 22-26 are canceled and claims 2 and 5 are amended. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file the subject matter of the canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Reconsideration of all pending claims in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowed Claims

Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 9-20 and 27 are allowed and that claims 5-7 contain allowable subject matter. As Applicants have amended claim 5 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 3 and 4, Applicants submit that at least claims 2 and 5-7 should also be indicated to be allowed. Additionally, as Applicants have canceled claim 1, 3, 4, 8 and 22-26, Applicants submit that the only remaining claims are claims which are allowed/allowable. Thus, Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and that the outstanding rejections should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being a single means claim and therefore having undue breadth.

Applicants traverse this basis of rejection for the reasons already made of record. However, in view of the fact that claim 8 has been canceled in order to advance prosecution of the allowed/allowable claims, Applicants submit that this basis of

rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above-noted rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejections

Claims 1-3, 8 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,098,053 to SLATER ("SLATER") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,596 to WALKER et al. ("WALKER"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SLATER with WALKER as applied to claim 3 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,999,624 to HOPKINS. Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SLATER and WALKER as applied to claim 1, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,014,650 to ZAMPESE. Claims 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over SLATER with WALKER as applied to claim 1 in view of LEWIS.

Applicants traverse this basis of rejection for at least the reasons already made of record. However, in view of the fact that each of the above-noted claims have been canceled in order to advance prosecution of the allowed/allowable claims, Applicants submit that this basis of rejection is now moot.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above-noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that all of the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicants hereby make a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to **International Business Machines Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (Endicott)**.

Respectfully submitted,
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